

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 02350 081737Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 ORM-02 DHA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00
VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 SY-05 FBIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 EUR-12 DODE-00 PRS-01
/085 W

-----081743Z 074687 /46

O R 081706Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2376
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 2350

ROME FOR INS

GENEVA FOR REFUGEE AFFAIRS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, ET, US
SUBJ: ASYLUM REQUEST (MENGESHA, ZAUGE MELAKA)

REF : (A) STATE 048555, (B) 75 STATE A-5895

1. SUMMARY: ZAUGE MALAKA MENGESHA CAME TO EMBASSY MARCH 8, 1977
AND IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS FORMER FIRST SECRETARY OF ETHIOPIAN
EMBASSY IN TOKYO. STATING THAT HE HAD STRONG REASONS FOR BELIEVEING
HIS LIFE WOULD BE ENDANGERED IF HE RETURNED TO ETHIOPIA, HE
REQUESTED ASYLUM IN THE U.S. END SUMMARY.

2. MENGESHA STATED THAT HE HAD SERVED IN ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY IN
TOKYO BETWEEN 1966 AND 1976, AND WAS FUNCTIONING AS CHARGE AT

THE BEGINNING OF ETHIOPIA'S REVOLUTION. DURING THIS
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PERIOD, HE WROTE A NUMBER OF REPORTS TO HIS GOVERNMENT DEALING
WITH THE REACTIONS OF JAPANESE POLITICAL CIRCLES TO DEVELOPMENTS
IN ETHIOPIA AND THEIR JUDGMENTS ABOUT THE ULTIMATE FATE OF THE
SELASSIE GOVERNMENT. THE GIST OF THESE REPORTS ACCORDING TO
MENGESHA, WAS THAT THE JAPANESE DOUBTED THE MILITARY'S DESIRE TO
OUST THE EMPEROR.

3. THESE REPORTS LATER FELL INTO THE HANDS OF THE DIRGUE AND THIS, TOGETHER WITH THE FACT THAT HE WAS RELATED TO THE EXECUTED PRIME MINISTER MAKONNEN, FORM THE BASES OF MENGESHA'S FEARS. HE CLAIMS TO HAVE INFORMATION FROM OTHER CONTACTS INDICATING HIS NAME IS ON THE GOVERNMENT'S BLACK LIST.

4. TO INVESTIGATE THIS LAST RUMOR, MENGESHA DECIDED TO TAKE LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM TOKYO. THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT SENT HIM A TICKET TO RETURN HOME, BUT MENGESHA WENT TO KENYA INSTEAD. HE THEN DECIDED TO PROCEED TO IVORY COAST WHERE HE EXPLAINED HE WOULD "FEEL SAFER". HE IS CURRENTLY STAYING IN AN ABIDJAN HOTEL.

5. EMBOFF SUGGESTED MENGESHA CONTACT IVORIAN GOVERNMENT WITH HIS REQUEST BUT HE DEMURRED, STATING THAT HE DID NOT SPEAK FRENCH AND THE FACT THAT IVORY COAST CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN DEIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA COULD MAKE HIS POSITION HERE AWKWARD. THE POSSIBILITY OF ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNHCR WAS ALSO RAISED, BUT MENGESHA REITERATED HIS DESIRE FOR ASYLUM IN THE U.S. EVEN AFTER THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED WERE EXPLAINED TO HIM. MANGESHA HAD EARLIER SENT HIS WIFE AND CHILD BACK TO ETHIOPIA. HENCE THE ASYLUM REQUEST WAS ONLY FOR HIMSELF.

6. MENGESHA PLANS TO RETURN TO EMBASSY NEXT WEEK TO OBTAIN RESPONSE. REQUEST DEPARTMENT ADVISE.

7. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY RELEVANT INFORMATION EMBASSY TOKYO CAN DEVELOP.
STEARNS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: POLITICAL ASYLUM, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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